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A NEW RACE OF SILKY POCKET MOUSE (*PEROGNATHUS*) FROM THE SAN LUIS VALLEY, COLORADO

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A series of forty-one pocket mice from Alamosa and Costilla counties, Colorado, collected by Peter E. Crowe, H. L. Hill and the author, with seven in the collection of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, and one in the collection of the Fish and Wildlife Service, are recognizably different from named forms of *Perognathus flavus*.

Dr. E. Raymond Hall and Dr. Seth B. Benson of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, and Mr. H. H. T. Jackson of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have assisted greatly by the loan of material for comparison and specimens of the new form.

Perognathus flavus sanluisi, new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 137669, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., adult ♀, skin and skull, from nine miles east of Center (twenty miles north northwest of Alamosa, Alamosa County), Colorado, altitude 7580 feet, original no. P 820, collected by Peter E. Crowe, August 18, 1940.

DIAGNOSIS.—A dark race of *Perognathus flavus*, with more blackish coloration than in the typical form, *P. f. bimaculatus* or *P. f. piperi*, less black than *P. f. fuliginosus;* the buffy element in the coloration paler than in any except *piperi* (known from original description); lateral line poorly marked.

COLORATION.—In fresh pelage (August specimens), upperparts paler than Pinkish Buff, about 18″ e (Ridgway, 1912, "Color Standards and Color Nomenclature"), strongly overlaid with blackish; the effect, diffused at a distance of ten feet, is near Clove Brown. Lateral line and ear spots near Pinkish Buff, the former being slightly brighter. Underparts white, usually with a buffy area mid-ventrally.

Worn pelage, especially in specimens from the alkali flats of the valley, much less blackish; in some cases the dorsal coloration is near Cinnamon, although small areas of new pelage conform to the previous description of color. Old pelage on several specimens from less alkaline areas differs from the fresh chiefly by a reduction of black, either from wear or fading. There is little variation in the coloration of new pelage.

SKULL.—Cranially the new race is about the same size as *P. f. flavus*, insofar as can be judged from the limited number of topotypes examined, and slightly smaller than topotypical *P. f. bimaculatus*. Size differences in the three forms of *Perognathus flavus* examined are not significant, however; variation is too great in the relatively small series in collections.

MEASUREMENTS.—Those of the type, followed by averages of twenty adults of both sexes from the same locality: head and body, 63 (61.0) mm.; tail, 46 (49.95); hind foot, c. u., 15 (15.85); ear, from notch, 6 (6.2). Skull: greatest length, 20.0 (20.3); basilar length, 14.1 (14.34); length nasals at mid-line, 7.2 (7.14); zygomatic breadth at plate, 9.6 (9.86); interorbital breadth, 4.4 (4.4); greatest breadth across mastoids, 11.5 (11.68); interparietal, length by breadth, 2.6 × 3.1 (2.57 × 3.24); maxillary tooth row, 3.0 (3.03).

Of the specimens of *P. f. sanluisi* examined, other than the type, thirty-eight (A.M.N.H.) are from the type locality, seven (six, M.V.Z.; one, F.W.S.) from fifteen miles northeast of Mosca (Medano Ranch, about twenty-one miles northeast of Alamosa), two (M.V.Z.) from three miles south of the Great Sand Dunes National Monument (twenty-four miles northeast of Alamosa) and seven (three, A.M.N.H.; four, M.V.Z.) from near Fort Garland, Costilla County.

The new race probably occurs over most of the floor of the San Luis Valley and around the margins, where soil and flora are suitable. To the south it doubtless intergrades with *P. f. bimaculatus*. Incidentally, it may be here noted that specimens from near Cimarron, Colfax County, New Mexico, reported by me (1942, Jour. Mammal., XXIII, p. 80) as *Perognathus f. flavus*, agree better with topotypes of *bimaculatus* and should be identified with this more richly colored race.